

News Release

Department of the Interior / U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge
1428 Highway 27
Bell City, LA 70630
337-598-2216

For Immediate Release
August 20, 2015

Contact:
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Application Period Opens for Cameron Prairie and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Youth and Senior Lottery Waterfowl Hunts

The Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex has four Lottery Drawn Waterfowl Hunt opportunities on Cameron Prairie and Lacassine refuges. The application period for all lottery waterfowl hunts is September 1-30, 2015. All applications must be mailed or delivered to the Complex Headquarters at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Decoys will not be provided by the Service for any of these hunts. Below is a description of each hunt and how to apply.

The *Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Youth Lottery Waterfowl Hunt* is open to youth 10–17 years of age. The youth hunts, in five blinds, are scheduled on Saturdays and selected school holidays within the coastal zone Louisiana waterfowl hunting season. Decoys will NOT be provided. The 15 available hunt dates for the 2015-16 Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge youth hunt are October 31* (*Youth Waterfowl Day is a youth only hunt for youths 15 years old and under. Adults must supervise youth, but adults cannot hunt on this day), November 7, 11, 14, 21, 25, and 28 (2015), December 5, 19, 23, 26 and 30 (2015), and January 2, 9 and 16 (2016). Selected youth, their adult supervisor, and a guest of any age are permitted to hunt on these dates in compliance with state law. Youth hunters must harvest their own limit.

The *Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Youth Lottery Waterfowl Hunt* is open to youth 10 –17 years of age. Lacassine lottery hunts will only be available during the second split and instead of hunt blinds; each hunter will be assigned a hunt

area. Hunt blinds and decoys will NOT be provided. The youth hunts, within the five hunt areas, are scheduled on Saturdays and selected school holidays within the 2nd split of the coastal zone Louisiana waterfowl hunting season. The seven available hunt dates for the 2015-16 Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge youth hunt are December 19,23,26, and 30 (2015), and January 2,9, and 16 (2016). Selected youth, their adult supervisor, and a guest of any age can hunt on these dates in compliance with state law. Youth hunters must harvest their own limit.

For both the Cameron Prairie and Lacassine Youth Hunts, youth hunter applicants must be 10-17 years of age by November 1, 2015. (For the Louisiana Youth Only Hunt on October 31, 2015 the youth and youth guests must be 15 or younger on that day to hunt). One adult will supervise no more than two youth hunters. Youth hunters and supervisors born after September 1, 1969, are required to possess a Louisiana Hunter Safety Certification card or equivalent from another state prior to application. If the course has been taken, but the card has not been received, youth hunters will be required to carry a copy of their course completion certificate while hunting. Three hunters (supervising adult, permitted youth, and a guest of any age) are permitted in each of the Cameron Prairie pit blinds and/or Lacassine hunt areas. .

The *Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Senior Lottery Waterfowl Hunt* is open to seniors age 55 and older by November 1, 2015. Lacassine lottery hunts will only be available during the second split, and instead of hunt blinds, each hunter will be assigned a hunt area. Hunt blinds and decoys will NOT be provided. Senior hunts, within five hunt areas, are scheduled on two Wednesdays during the 2nd split of the coastal zone Louisiana waterfowl hunting season. The two available dates for the 2015-16 Lacassine Senior Lottery Waterfowl Hunt are January 6 and 13. Chosen senior hunters are permitted to bring two guests of any age.

The *Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Senior Lottery Waterfowl Hunt*. This hunt is open to seniors age 55 and older by November 1, 2015. Senior hunts, in 5 blinds, are scheduled on Wednesdays during the coastal zone Louisiana waterfowl hunting season. The four available dates for the 2015-16 Cameron Prairie NWR Senior Lottery Waterfowl Hunt are November 18, December 2 (2015) and January 6 and 13 (2016). Chosen senior hunters are permitted to bring two guests of any age. Decoys will NOT be provided.

To apply for refuge Lottery Hunts: Submit **Only ONE white 3" x 5"** index card for each hunt that you are applying for. There are four different lottery hunts, they are: 1) Cameron Prairie Youth Waterfowl Hunt, 2) Lacassine Youth Waterfowl Hunt, 3) Lacassine Senior Waterfowl Hunt, and the 4) Cameron Prairie Senior Waterfowl Hunt. Application index cards should be sent or delivered to: SW LA National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, 1428 Highway 27, Bell City, LA 70630, by 3:00pm, Wednesday, September 30, 2015. Each card must contain the following information:

- 1) **Print or Type** Name of Hunt that you are applying for:
Cameron Prairie Youth Waterfowl Hunt *or* Lacassine Youth Waterfowl Hunt *or*
Lacassine Senior Waterfowl Hunt *or* Cameron Prairie Senior Waterfowl Hunt
(only one card per hunt, NOT one per hunt date)
- 2) **Print or Type** Applicant name
- 3) **Print or Type** Applicant age by November 1, 2015
- 4) **Print or Type** Applicants complete mailing address
- 5) **Print or Type** Applicants email address
- 6) **Print or Type** Applicants complete contact telephone number
- 7) **Print or Type** Applicants preferred Hunt Date and up to **FOUR** alternate dates, in priority order, *or* write “any available date” if you can make it to any hunt date.

No phone applications will be accepted. If the required information is not provided or is illegible, the applicant will be ineligible for the drawing. Individuals submitting more than one card per hunt will be disqualified from the drawing.

Successful applicants will be issued a special permit for each hunt they are chosen to participate in. Applicants for Cameron Prairie Hunts will be notified of results by November 1, 2015. Applicants for Lacassine Hunts will be notified of results by December 1, 2015.

For additional information about any of the SW LA National Wildlife Refuges call 337-598-2216 or view our website at <http://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that encompasses more than 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. The agency also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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